

Serial No. 10/697,680

**REMARKS**

1. This paper is responsive to the office action of August 6, 2004.
- 5 2. In brief, the present invention is a current limiting engagement apparatus for an electrical connector.
3. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hermann, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,296,499). Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 have been  
10 canceled.
4. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermann, Jr. et al. in view of Keith et al. (U.S. Patent Publication # 2003/0187445 A1). Claim 3 has been canceled.
- 15 5. Claims 5 – 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 6  
20 and 7 are dependent upon claim 5, so they also include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 5. Thus, claims 5 – 7 are now in a condition for allowance.
6. For these reasons, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

25

Serial No. 10/697,680

Respectfully submitted,

by



Leslie P. Gehman

Reg. No. 45,624

November 1, 2004

Fort Collins, CO 80528-9599

(970) 898-3642